

Adult School Copes With LBUSD Cuts

By Stephanie Minasian

Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 12:15 am

After devastating cuts in the Long Beach Unified School District left the Long Beach School for Adults without some of its programs and staff, the school is now planning a new high school program for the upcoming school year.

“The bottom line is that the budget has affected the adult school,” said Principal Matt Saldana. “A lot of our staff is now part-time. Previously, we had well over 100 staff members, but we just don’t have that anymore. Some instructors who were working full-time are now only part-time.”

The program eliminated due to the budget cuts was the one serving older adults/adults with disabilities. Older adults had been offered classes such as literacy, crafts, music and computer classes.

Despite this cutback, the school is expanding one aspect of its offerings to bring a new component high school — called Beach High — this fall.

“Beach High School targets 10th graders who need a different educational setting, and those who may be credit deficient,” Saldana said. “It’s not an independent study, but students will be assigned hours in our center, where they will work independently. The harder they work, the faster they can move through the coursework.”

The Beach High program allows students the opportunity to have an alternative education and work at their own pace, he said.

Previously, high school students who needed to make up credits were enrolled concurrently with the adult school and their high school.

“Now, this year, they will only come to us,” Saldana said. “The whole goal of this new program is for students to receive the credit they need, and then return to their own high schools.”

The school also will continue to allow adults, who did not receive their high school diploma to earn a GED. The GED test proves that students have the high school knowledge and skill-levels in language arts, reading, language arts, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

Enrollment for the upcoming school year is projected to be between 3,000 to 4,000 students, Saldana explained, which includes the main campus, at 3701 E. Willow St., the satellite campus at 1794 Cedar Ave., and several internship classes that allow students to work off-site in the field as part of the job training available to students.

The adult school is still offering its English as Second Language (E.S.L.) classes, which Saldana says has a high success rate.

“Our E.S.L. students transition well, and with hard work, they are able to earn their high school

diplomas,” he said. “These students bring a wealth of background to program and with some work, they are able to go on to get a college education in our country.”

The last day for student enrollment is Aug. 25, and the semester will commence Sept. 7.

For more information, call the Long Beach Adult School Willow campus at 595-8893, or the Cedar campus at 218-0493. Visit the website at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/lbsa/index.htm.

“The staff at Beach High School, and the adult school are looking forward to a new and challenging school year,” Saldana said.